

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 and 25-32 are pending. Claims 1, 6, 8, 13, and 19 have been amended. Claims 25-32 have been added. Claims 5 and 21-24 have been canceled. The amendments and new claims are supported by page 6, lines 14-28, and page 7, line 31 to page 8, line 3 of the application, as well as by canceled claim 5. No new matter has been added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 10 and 11 contain allowable subject matter. Although these claims are objected to for being dependent on a rejected base claim, applicant submits that this Amendment places those claims in condition for allowance, thus obviating the objection.

Claims 1, 19, 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Melzner (US 6,151,752) in view of Brennan (US 2,904,817). Claims 1-7, 13, 14, and 19-24 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Worwag (US 5,416,948) in view of Mikami (JP 05-317213). Claims 8, 9, and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Worwag, Mikami, and Moren (US 5,592,716). Claims 15-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Worwag, Mikami, and Kirby (US 2,648,396). Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Worwag, Mikami, and Conrad (US 6,099,661). These rejections are traversed.

Claim 1 recites a vacuum cleaning head including a control comprising a moveable part having an interior volume which communicates with a main airflow path to the first turbine, the moveable part moving in response to a force generated by a pressure difference between the interior volume and ambient air. This feature, previously recited in claim 5, is not disclosed or suggested by the cited art.

The cited art does not disclose or suggest a moveable part having an interior volume, as claimed. In item 10 of the office action, the Examiner contends that flap 81 of Worwag or shutter 30 of Mikami is a moveable part having an interior volume. The Examiner concedes that the flap/shutter does not actually have a volume inside the part, but contends that the moveable part of the claimed invention also fails to have a volume inside the part. Applicant

respectfully disagrees. First, the claims clearly require that the moveable part have an interior volume. Second, Fig. 3 of applicant's application depicts an exemplary moveable part in the form of button 200 having interior region 216. The specification describes region 216 at page 7, lines 20-21: "The region *inside* the button is effectively a *chamber*" (emphasis added). In one embodiment, this exemplary region corresponds to the claimed interior volume of the moveable part. One side of the moveable part is thus exposed to ambient air while the opposite side is exposed to the interior volume 216. In operation, as the speed of the turbine or the flow of air through the turbine increases, the static pressure in the interior volume 216 decreases. The reduction in pressure causes the moveable part to move inwardly so as to restrict the inlet to the turbine and thus regulate the speed of the turbine. As the Examiner recognized, Worwag's flap 81 and Mikami's shutter 30 clearly do not have an interior volume, and thus they fail to disclose or suggest the claimed moveable part having an interior volume. The other cited art fails to remedy this deficiency of Worwag and Mikami.

In addition, the cited art fails to disclose or suggest a vacuum cleaning head having a moveable part that moves in response to *a force generated by* a pressure difference between the interior volume of the moveable part and ambient air, as claimed. The Examiner relied on Mikami to teach a similar (but not identical) feature previously recited in claim 5. Mikami's shutter 30 is moved by a control circuit 36 in response to changes in pressure sensed by pressure sensor 40. However, shutter 30 is not moved in response to *a force generated by* a pressure difference between the interior volume of the moveable part and ambient air, as claimed. The other cited art do not remedy Mikami's deficiency.

Claim 19 recites a vacuum cleaning head including a control comprising a button and a flexible diaphragm, the button being moveable by a user between an open position in which air is admitted by the turbine air inlet to the turbine, and a closed position in which the diaphragm seals the turbine air inlet to prevent air reaching the turbine and thus prevent rotation of the agitator. None of the cited art discloses or suggests a vacuum cleaning head having this feature.

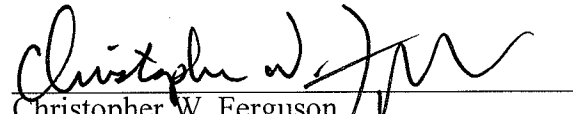
In view of the above, the invention defined by claims 1 and 19 would not have been obvious in view of the cited art. Claims 1 and 19 are thus allowable. The other claims are allowable for their dependency on an allowable base claim. Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the outstanding objection and rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **424662010500**.

Respectfully submitted,

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